

# KPS CONSULTING

“Building an Access Bridge in Technology and Telecommunications”

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December 7, 2006

By electronic filing:

Marlene H. Dortch

Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Ex Parte Presentation**

CG Docket No. 03-123

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 5, 2006, Terry Portis of the Hearing Loss Association of America (and husband of a wife with hearing loss) and Janice Schacter of AG Bell (and mother of a daughter with hearing loss) met with Chairman Martin, Dan Gonzalez, Michele Carey and Monica Desai to discuss pending requests to the FCC to approve an Internet version of captioned telephone relay services for reimbursement from the Interstate TRS Fund, as well as a mandate for the PSTN version of this service. Robert Engelke, Kevin Colwell, Pam Holmes and the undersigned, representing Ultratec, Inc. were also present to answer questions. On December 6, 2006, Terry Portis of the Hearing Loss Association of America was again accompanied by Robert Engelke, Kevin Colwell, Pam Holmes and the undersigned, representing Ultratec, Inc., in meetings with the following individuals for this same purpose:

Scott Bergmann and Chris Reichman of the Office of Commissioner Adelstein

Scott Deutchman and John Branscome of the Office of Commissioner Copps

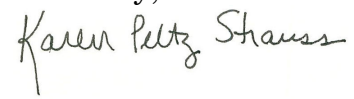
Commissioner McDowell and John Hunter

A summary of the many benefits of captioned telephone, along with a review of its history and current status, is attached to this ex parte submission.

In addition to the arguments for expanding captioned telephone contained in this document, the following points were highlighted during these meetings:

- Captioned telephone VCO can provide the only functionally equivalent relay service for millions of Americans who, to date, have not used relay services, but need the telephone to remain productive and mainstreamed in our society. Sixty-four percent of current captioned telephone users report never having used relay services before this technology became available to them. In particular, this technology provides access to elder seniors with progressive hearing loss by giving them the opportunity to use the phone as they have been accustomed, with captioning support.
- Captioned telephone VCO allows VCO technology that is now sixteen years old to be modernized to its current state of the art.
- This service is by far more efficient than traditional TTY or other text-based relay services. Per conversation, a captioned telephone call takes one half the time that a traditional TRS call takes because of the swift transmission speed made capable through speech recognition.
- Captioned telephone VCO cost efficiencies will continue to improve as the volume of captioned telephone calls increases.
- Captioned telephone VCO users especially like the transparent nature of captioned telephone: the ability to dial directly and communicate without the intrusion of a relay operator is what makes this service so appealing to people accustomed to using conventional telephones.
- The IP version of captioned telephone VCO allows individuals to access this service with telephone and computer equipment that they already have, and is particularly useful for individuals in the workplace and on travel. This version of captioned telephone especially opens access to hard of hearing and deaf employees whose offices have only digital lines.
- Children and teenagers with hearing loss need to be able to use the telephone to maintain social interaction, self-esteem, and communication on school work and activities. They can achieve this with captioned telephone.
- Currently, most states that have captioned telephone limit its availability. Nine states plus D.C. do not have the service yet. Individuals that have enjoyed this service in one state and moved to a non-captioned telephone state have complained of the severe hardship now imposed upon them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Peltz Strauss".

Karen Peltz Strauss

Legal Consultant to Ultratec, Inc.

Attachment